

# Rural Cooperative Development Grants

**Description:** Grants are for establishing and operating centers for rural cooperative development for the primary purpose of improving the economic condition of rural areas by promoting the development or improvement of cooperative organizations.



**Grant Purposes:** The development or improvement of cooperative organizations.

**Who Can Apply?** Nonprofit institutions, including institutions of higher learning.

**Other Criteria:** Applications are solicited annually and scored according to defined selection criteria, including ability of applicant to facilitate establishment of cooperatives and new cooperative approaches that will improve the economic conditions of rural areas, experience and skills in providing technical assistance to

rural areas, and commitment to providing cooperative development services to rural areas adversely affected by structural change.

**Grant Amount:** Based on need and available appropriated fund. Funding for FY 2003 was \$5 million nationwide. Funds are not distributed to States.

**Where Do You Apply?** Contact Craig Scroggs to obtain additional information and/or to request an application. Craig can be reached at 678-483-1277 or at [craig.scroggs@ga.usda.gov](mailto:craig.scroggs@ga.usda.gov).

**Examples of projects funded:** In FY 2001, *Golden Triangle Resource Conservation & Development Center* received a Rural Cooperative Development Grant of \$190,000 to help establish a rural cooperative center serving nine southwest Georgia counties. Three areas of focus were to manage education, communication and research for cooperatives; to develop an outfitters/landowners cooperative to develop eco-tourism; and to influence and support cooperative development in food preservation and water issues.



Rural Development  
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